

APPLICATION FOR SERVICE RETIREMENT

FOR RETIREMENT USE ONLY

FORM 13-23 (REV. 1/15)

The Maryland State Retirement Agency will make every effort to process all VSP retirement applications in a timely fashion. However, the restricted program acceptance process will delay your first retirement payment. **You can expect to receive your first benefit payment on June 30, 2015**, and it will include a retro payment for the May 2015 retirement date.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETION OF APPLICATION

IMPORTANT: Read the following instructions and information carefully before filling out this form.

NEED HELP: If you need help to complete this form, or need information on your retirement benefits or retirement process, call a retirement benefits specialist at 410-625-5555 or 1-800-492-5909.

1. Under *the non-contributory pension system*, benefit payments cannot be paid for periods prior to the date you file this application, so file at least two weeks before your selected effective date.
2. In addition to this form, you are required to complete Forms 127 (Reemployment After Retirement), 85 (Direct Deposit - Electronic Funds Transfer Sign-Up) and 766 (Federal and Maryland State Tax Withholding Request) and forward them to your Retirement Coordinator.
3. If you have chosen payment Option 2, 3, 5 or 6, you must verify your beneficiary's date of birth by attaching a copy of his or her birth certificate, valid driver's license or other proof of birth. You can name only one beneficiary under these options. For information on other acceptable proofs of birth date, call a retirement benefits specialist at the number shown above.
4. If you are electing Option 2 or 5, you cannot designate a beneficiary who is more than 10 years younger unless the beneficiary is your spouse or disabled child. If you elect Option 2 or Option 5 and designate your disabled child, you must submit a completed Form 143 with this application.
5. If you wish to purchase previous service or apply for military service for which you are eligible, ask your Retirement Coordinator for the proper form(s) and submit it with this application. Additional credit cannot be claimed or purchased after your retirement.
6. If you wish to name more than one beneficiary and you are choosing the Option 1 Allowance or the Option 4 Allowance, you should not fill out the "Designation of Beneficiary" section on page 2. Instead, fill out and attach Form 4 (Designation of Beneficiary Form).
7. If you are eligible to participate in the State Employees Health Insurance Program, only Option 2, 3, 5 or 6 continue health program coverage for your eligible surviving dependents after your death. Contact your employing agency for details.
8. You may change your retirement allowance selection only by filing a change with the Maryland State Retirement Agency before your first payment normally becomes due on May 31, 2015.
9. If you die before the effective date of your retirement, your beneficiary cannot receive a retirement allowance even if you have completed this form. If you are still in active service at the time of your death, your beneficiary is only eligible for the active service death benefit.
10. You may change your beneficiary at any time. Depending on the option you have chosen, however, your retirement allowance may have to be recalculated to reflect the change. Your benefit amount could be reduced as a result of the change. For more information, call a retirement benefits specialist.
11. You must retire within 30 days of separating from employment with a participating employer to receive additional creditable service for your unused sick leave. Unused sick leave is sick leave that was available to an employee as sick leave during employment and was not used before retirement. Any converted leave that was not sick leave during employment may not be reported.
12. Generally speaking, a member may not receive more than one type of retirement benefit.
13. If you have voluntary contributions in your account and have elected to withdraw them in a lump sum, you must attach completed Form 742 (Application for Withdrawal of Voluntary Funds), Form 193 (Trustee-to-Trustee Distribution Form) if applicable and Form 746 (Acknowledgement of Receipt of Safe Harbor Notice and Affirmative Election) to this application. These forms may be obtained by calling a retirement benefits specialist at the number shown above.
14. Refer to Form 127 (Reemployment After Retirement), which should be submitted with this application, for an explanation of how post retirement employment may affect your retirement benefits.

RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE OPTIONS

VSP

**YOU MAY CHOOSE ONLY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS.
INDICATE YOUR SELECTION BY SIGNING IN THE APPROPRIATE BOX BELOW.**

BASIC ALLOWANCE:

The Basic Allowance pays you the largest possible amount of money each month until your death. All monthly payments stop at your death, including beneficiary health coverage for state employees. After your death, your beneficiary or estate will receive one payment if your death occurs on the 16th of the month or later.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

OPTION 1:

Provides a lower monthly benefit than the Basic Allowance, but guarantees monthly payments that equal the total of your retirement benefit's Present Value. The Present Value of your benefit is figured at the time of your retirement. If you die before receiving monthly payments that add up to the Present Value, the remaining payments will be paid in a lump sum to your designated beneficiary or beneficiaries who remain alive. For state employees: Option 1 does not provide for continued beneficiary health coverage after your death.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

OPTION 2:

Provides a lower monthly benefit than the Basic Allowance, but guarantees that after your death the same monthly benefit will continue to be paid to your surviving beneficiary for his or her lifetime. No further payments will be made after the deaths of you and your beneficiary. If you choose this option, you must send proof of your beneficiary's date of birth with this application. Retirees electing Option 2 cannot designate a beneficiary who is more than 10 years younger unless the beneficiary is the retiree's spouse or disabled child.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

OPTION 3:

Provides a lower monthly benefit than the Basic Allowance, but guarantees that after your death one half of the monthly benefit paid to you will be paid to your surviving beneficiary for his or her lifetime. No further payments will be made after the deaths of you and your beneficiary. If you choose this option, you must send proof of your beneficiary's date of birth with this application.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

OPTION 4:

Provides a lower monthly benefit than the Basic Allowance, but Guarantees the return of your accumulated contributions and interest as established when you retire. If you die before you have recovered the full amount of your accumulated contributions and interest, the remainder will be paid in a lump sum to your designated beneficiary or beneficiaries who remain alive. For state employees: Option 4 does not provide for continued beneficiary health coverage after your death.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

OPTION 5:

Provides a lower monthly benefit than the Basic Allowance, but guarantees that after your death the same monthly benefit paid to you will be paid to your surviving beneficiary for his or her lifetime. It also provides that your monthly benefit will "pop-up" to the Basic Allowance for your lifetime the month following the death of your beneficiary if your beneficiary dies before you. If your original beneficiary dies and you are collecting the Basic Allowance and decide to name a new beneficiary, your benefit will be recalculated under Option 5 based on the new beneficiary designation. If you choose this option, you must send proof of your beneficiary's date of birth with this application. Retirees electing Option 5 cannot designate a beneficiary who is more than 10 years younger unless the beneficiary is the retiree's spouse or disabled child.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

OPTION 6:

Provides a lower monthly benefit than the Basic Allowance, but guarantees that after your death one half of the monthly benefit paid to you will be paid to your surviving beneficiary for his or her lifetime. It also provides that your monthly benefit will "pop-up" to the Basic Allowance for your lifetime the month following the death of your beneficiary if your beneficiary dies before you. If your original beneficiary dies and you are collecting the Basic Allowance and decide to name a new beneficiary, your benefit will be recalculated under Option 6 based on the new beneficiary designation. If you choose this option, you must send proof of your beneficiary's date of birth with this application.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

APPLICATION FOR SERVICE RETIREMENT
To be completed by employer and returned with application

VSP

Employer's Certification of Separation from Employment, Wages, Contributions and Sick Leave

For: _____
Applicant's Name Job Classification

Applicant's Social Security number: _____ - _____ - _____

A. The most recent payroll period reported _____ - _____ - _____ was:
Month Day Year

B. The projected payroll information to be reported prior to retirement is:

Contribution \$ _____ Standard hours _____ Actual Hours Paid _____ Pay Period Ending _____
MO DAY YR

Contribution \$ _____ Standard hours _____ Actual Hours Paid _____ Pay Period Ending _____
MO DAY YR

Contribution \$ _____ Standard hours _____ Actual Hours Paid _____ Pay Period Ending _____
MO DAY YR

Final
Contribution \$ _____ Standard Hours _____ Actual Hours Paid _____ Pay Period Ending _____
MO DAY YR



No retirement contribution is due for a pay period **ending** on or after the retirement date.

C. The employee is separating from employment with the employer. The employee's last day on payroll is: _____.

Federal law prohibits the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System from paying benefits prior to "separation from employment." "Separation from employment" may only occur on resignation, retirement, discharge, or death, and not on transfer, promotion, or otherwise continuing employment with the same employer without interruption. Effective July 1, 2005, State law requires that there be a minimum of 45 days between the last day on payroll, as set forth above, and the date the employee is rehired by (a) a unit of state government if the employee's current employer is a unit of state government, or (b) a participating employer if the employee's current employer is the same participating employer.

D. Salary Change: Did the employee's salary change since most recent payroll period reported or will the employee's salary change before the date of retirement?.....() YES () NO

If yes, the employee's new annual salary is \$ _____ and is effective _____
MO DAY YR

E. Unused Sick Leave: Member must retire within 30 days of separating from employment to be eligible to receive additional creditable service for unused sick leave. The agency must be notified of all changes in unused sick leave. Unused sick leave must be reported at the time the member files for retirement and again 30 days after the effective date of retirement. Retirement Coordinator: Please retain a copy and submit recertified sick leave 30 days after retirement. Unused sick leave is sick leave that was available to an employee as sick leave during employment and was not used before retirement. Any converted leave that was not sick leave during employment may not be reported.

Initial Reporting:	Total DAYS of unused sick leave (If none, enter word NONE) _____ as of _____ MO DAY YR
Recertified Sick Leave:	Total DAYS of unused sick leave (If no change, enter no change) _____ as of _____ MO DAY YR Retirement Coordinator recertifying leave must initial here: _____

I certify that the above information regarding wages, contributions, separation from service, and sick leave is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and that I am authorized to certify this information by the employer. I will report any changes to unused sick leave occurring between the date certified and the actual date of retirement.

Signature of Authorized Agent

Printed Name of Authorized Agent

Title of Authorized Agent

Date

Full Name of Employer

DIRECT Telephone Number

Submit form directly to: Maryland State Retirement and Pension System, 120 East Baltimore St., Baltimore, MD 21202-6700

Important Points To Know...

VSP

when filing the

Application for Service Retirement (Form 13-23)

Please review the following information when planning and filing for retirement.

For retirement counseling call: 410-625-5555 or 1-800-492-5909.

- ☐ Apply to purchase any eligible service credit that is not in your account by completing the *Request to Purchase Previous Service* (Form 26) before you retire. You must submit your request to purchase service prior to retiring. A purchase of service increases the amount of service in your account towards becoming eligible to retire as well as the amount of your retirement benefit.
- ☐ Claim your military service by completing the *Claim of Retirement Credit for Military Service* (Form 43) and submitting it to SRA before you retire. You must have at least 10 years of creditable state service in order to claim military service that occurred prior to your membership. Claiming military service increases the amount of service in your account towards becoming eligible to retire as well as the amount of your retirement benefit.
- ☐ Submit a request for an estimate by filing the *Application for an Estimate of Service Retirement Allowance* (Form 9). See the Important Points to Know sheet that accompanies Form 9 for more information.
- ☐ Your retirement date is May 1, 2015. The forms needed to retire are:
 - VSP - Application for Service Retirement Form (Form 13-23)*
 - VSP - Direct Deposit Electronic Fund Transfer Sign-Up (Form 85)*
 - VSP - Federal and State Tax Withholding Request (Form 766)*
 - VSP - Reemployment After Retirement (Form 127)*

Retirement forms should be sent to the Retirement Agency as soon as possible. Form 13-23 can only be sent to the Agency from your employer so please allow sufficient time for your employer to process information on the back of the form and send it to the Agency.

- ☐ Ask any questions you have on retirement issues or forms to SRA retirement benefits specialists. You can make an appointment to see a specialist or you can talk with a specialist by calling 410-625-5555 or toll-free 1-800-492-5909.
- ☐ Read carefully the first page of Form 13-23. Be sure you understand all information on the front page before completing the form. If you need any help, contact a retirement benefits specialist at 410-625-5555 or toll free at 1-800-492-5909.
- ☐ **Any unused sick leave days that you have at retirement may be converted into months to add to your monthly benefit provided you retire within 30 days of separating from employment.**

Continued on following page.

The Maryland State Retirement and Pension System
120 East Baltimore Street · Baltimore, MD 21202-6700

sra.maryland.gov

Important Points to Know when filing the *Application for Service Retirement* (Form 13-23)

Continued from previous page.

- ☐ For State employees and employees of the University System of Maryland: If you are eligible to participate in the State Employees' Health Insurance Program, only selection of Option 2, 3, 5, or 6 will allow your eligible surviving dependents to continue health program coverage after your death. You must choose either Option 2, 3, 5, or 6 and name your spouse as beneficiary in order for the spouse to continue health insurance after your death.
- ☐ Your retirement date is May 1, 2015. You must be separated from employment on your retirement date.
- ☐ If you have voluntary money, decide how you want that money paid to you. To verify if you have any voluntary money, refer to your most recent Personal Statement of Benefits or call a retirement benefits specialist at 410-625-5555 or toll-free 1-800-492-5909.
- ☐ Name your beneficiary (ies). If you have selected Option 2, 3, 5, or 6, you may only name one beneficiary. If you choose the Basic Allowance, Option 1 or Option 4, you may name multiple beneficiaries. If you are naming multiple beneficiaries, check the box on Form 13-23 that indicates you are submitting Form 4 with your beneficiary information. Do not enter one beneficiary on Form 13-23 and the rest on Form 4. Enter multiple beneficiaries on Form 4.
- ☐ Choose your payment option. Be sure you understand each option before making your choice. Your estimate should be helpful in choosing the option best suited to you and to those who may rely upon you for continuing income after your death. Contact a retirement benefits specialist if you have questions regarding the payment options. **You may not change your payment option once your first payment comes due.**
- ☐ Submit proof of birth of your beneficiary if you choose Option 2, 3, 5, or 6. You may submit a copy of an unexpired driver's license, MD identification card provided by the Motor Vehicle Administration, birth certificate, passport, or military documentation, as examples.
- ☐ If you have chosen Option 2 or Option 5 and your beneficiary is your disabled child, you must have a physician complete the *Verification of Retiree's Disabled Child for Selection of Option 2 / 5 Beneficiary* (Form 143) and attach it to this application.
- ☐ You may be subject to specific VSP reemployment provisions.
- ☐ **No offers of reemployment should be made or discussed by you and your current employer until after you have retired.** Maryland law requires you to wait at least 45 days from your date of retirement before being reemployed as a retiree by your same employer. In this instance, all state agencies including the University System of Maryland are considered the same employer. If you return to work for the same employer, you may be subject to an earnings limitation as well as IRS rules may apply. Refer to the information on the most current *Reemployment After Retirement* (Form 127) for an explanation of the reemployment rules. If you have any questions, contact a retirement benefits specialist at 410-625-5555 or toll-free at 1-800-492-5909.
- ☐ Again, to receive credit for any unused sick leave days you have at retirement, you must retire within 30 days from when you separated from employment. Unused sick leave is sick leave that was available to an employee as sick leave during employment and was not used before retirement. Any converted leave that was not sick leave during employment may not be reported.